



**SOUTH DAKOTA WING HISTORY**  
**GENEALOGY OF WING UNITS SINCE 1941**

The South Dakota Wing was created on 1 December 1941 when the Civil Air Patrol itself came into being. Over the decades since that time the Wing has seen units created, units deactivated, units change names, and units change locations.

This genealogical list of South Dakota Wing units is a compilation from the few official records that still exist and the institutional and anecdotal memory of members and former members. If you can correct erroneous information or add new or supplemental information to this list please contact the Assistant Wing Historian, Major Bruce Kipp, at [bruce.kipp@sdcap.us](mailto:bruce.kipp@sdcap.us) or by phone at 605-261-4507.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA WING HEADQUARTERS**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Existence</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Rapid City	South Dakota Wing HQ (SD-001)	June 2006 – Present	Designator changed to SD-001 in 1999*
Sioux Falls	South Dakota Wing HQ (Wing 40001)	Mar 1950 – Jun 2006	Designator changed to Wing 40001 in 1955*
Pierre	South Dakota Wing HQ (Wing 77)	Dec 1941 – Feb 1950	

According to a monograph on the history of the South Dakota Wing written by Colonel Lester Snyder, Wing Commander from May 1973 to June 1977, "... on March 1, 1950, the Wing Headquarters was relocated from Pierre to Sioux Falls where it remained until 2006, except for short periods, from 1975 to 1977 and from 1990 to 1995, when a large portion of the Headquarters was in Rapid City."

These periods coincide when Colonel Lester Snyder was Wing Commander (1973-1977) and when Colonel Alden House was Wing Commander (1990-1994). According to Lt. Col. Don Barbalace, "Wing Commanders Snyder and House lived in Rapid City and kept an office there for convenience during their respective commands. There were several members on the wing staff that also lived in Rapid City or nearby. Hence, a "large portion" of Wing HQ was in Rapid City while the official office was in Sioux Falls for the use of the many East-River staff members."

\* There is some disagreement on the CAP designation of South Dakota Wing Headquarters. Col. Snyder wrote that it was Wing 40000, former Wing Commander Mike Beason states that the Wing Headquarters designation was 40001, with the designation 40000 for the "Headquarters Squadron" made up of inactive members. Lt. Col. Larson agrees with this. The same may be true of the Wing designation SD-000, as the current Wing Headquarters is SD-001 with SD-000 the designation for the Headquarters Squadron.

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## **AREA GROUPS**

When the South Dakota Wing was created on 1 December 1941 it consisted of a Wing Commander and eight Area Group Commanders. The Area Group Commands were located in Spearfish, Rapid City, Pierre, Huron, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings and Sioux Falls. The Area Group Commanders immediately began to sign up new members. In 1942, flights and squadrons began to be organized as sufficient numbers of members were recruited.

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## **CAP CADET CORPS (CAPC)**

On 1 October 1942, CAP National Commander Earle L. Johnson issued General Memorandum 58 for the formation of the CAP Cadets (CAPC). The memorandum stated that any existing CAP unit could form a counterpart cadet unit. Male and female cadets, ages 15-18 in their final two years of high school could join. These counterpart units were organized into cadet flights and cadet squadrons that were subordinate to the senior member flights and senior member squadrons.

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The structure of the South Dakota Wing remained largely unchanged until the end of World War II in the Pacific in mid-August 1945. The first significant post-war restructuring of CAP began in 1946 and the South Dakota Wing has continued to evolve since then.

Yet to be discovered is the date when the CAPC was merged into the senior member program which resulted in the formation of composite flights and composite squadrons consisting of both senior members and cadets.

## **CADET, SENIOR AND COMPOSITE FLIGHTS AND SQUADRONS**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>	<u>Existence</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Aberdeen	Aberdeen Composite Squadron (SD-020) Aberdeen Composite Flight (SD-020)	? – 2013 Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1958
Belle Fourche	Belle Fourche Composite Squadron (SD-033)	Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1967
Bison	Northwest Outpost Flight (SD-034) Formerly Northwest South Dakota Flight (SD-034)	Dates Not Known Dates Not Known	
Brookings	Big Sioux Composite Squadron (SD-058) Brookings Composite Squadron (SD-058) Brookings Composite Flight (SD-058) SDSU AFROTC Senior Squadron (SD-R01)	? – Present Renamed, Date not known Dates Not Known Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1965
Buffalo	Unidentified Squadron	Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1958
Burke	Gregory-Burke Cadet Squadron	Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1965
Chamberlain	Chamberlain Squadron	Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1967, Type Not Known
Custer	Crazy Horse Composite Squadron (SD-068) Harney Peak Composite Squadron A Flight under Rushmore Squadron	1995 - Present 1987 - 1995 Dates Not Known	
Eagle Butte	Cheyenne Composite Flight Cheyenne Composite Squadron (SD-067) Cheyenne Cadet Squadron Eagle Butte Cadet Squadron	~ 1992 - ~1993 ? - ~ 1992 Dates Not Known Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1967
Flandreau	Flandreau Composite Squadron (SD-059) Flandreau Composite Squadron (SD-059) South Dakota Wing Band (aka Flandreau High School Band)	Dates Not Known Dates Not Known 1969-1970	
Gregory/Burke	Gregory-Burke Composite Squadron (SD-060)	1958-1991	Noted Active in 1958
Hot Springs	Harney Peak Composite Squadron (Moved to Custer) Battle Mountain Composite Squadron (SD-062) Hot Springs Composite Squadron Fall River Senior Squadron	1993- 1994 ? - 1991 ~1958 - ? ~1961 - ?	Noted Active in 1958 Noted Active in 1965

	Fall River Composite Squadron	~1954 - ~1961	
Hoven	Hoven Composite Squadron	~70s	
Huron	Huron Composite Squadron (SD-052) Huron Composite Squadron (SD-052) Huron Senior Squadron	? – 2011 ? - 1994 (Deactivated) Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1958 Noted Active in 1965
Kadoka	Kadoka Composite Squadron (SD-047)	Dates Not Known	
Lakewood	Lakewood Composite Squadron (SD-020) Lakewood Flight (SD-020)	Dates Not Known Dates Not Known	
Lennox	Unidentified Squadron	Dates not Known	Noted Active in 1958
Madison	Inter-Lakes Composite Squadron	Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1958
Milbank	Milbank Composite Squadron	~50's - ~70's	Noted Active in 1957
Mitchell	Palace Composite Squadron (SD-070) Mitchell Composite Squadron	1998 – 2001, Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1965
Mobridge	Mobridge Composite Squadron (SD-066)	Dates Not Known	
Onida	Onida Composite Squadron (SD-069) Onida Composite Flight (SD-069)	1993- ? ? - 1993	
Oral	Cheyenne Cadet Squadron	1990 – 1993?	
Philip	Philip Composite Squadron (SD-053) Philip Composite Flight (SD-053) Philip Composite Squadron (SD-053)	1988- 2012 Dates not Known Dates not Known	Noted active in the late 1950s
Pierre	Pierre Composite Squadron (SD-038) Pierre Senior Squadron Pierre Composite Flight (SD-038)	? – Present Dates Not Known 1942 - ?	Noted Active in 1965 Noted Active in 1958
Rapid City	Rushmore Composite Squadron (SD-031) Ellsworth Composite Squadron (Renamed for postal reasons) Rapid City Composite Squadron #2 Rapid City Flight  Group 1 Headquarters	? - Present Dates Not Known ~1958 – 1965 Dates not Known  Dates Not Known	Coexistent w/Ellsworth Comp. Sqdn Noted Active in 1958  Noted Active in 1965

Redfield	Redfield Composite Squadron (SD-057)	1981-?	
Sioux City, IA	Dakota Point Composite Squadron	Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1965 Part of SDWG until mid-1980s
Sioux Falls	Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (SD-050) Sioux Falls Cadet Squadron (SD-050) Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (SD-050)	2001 - Present ~1975 - 2001 ~1945 - ~1975	
	Joe Foss Senior Squadron (SD-061, also 40061) Joe Foss Senior Squadron (SD-061, also 40061)	1986 – 2001 ? - ~1975	Merged with SD-050 in 2001
Spearfish	Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (SD-063)	1986 - Present	
Timber Lake	Dewey County Senior Squadron	Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1965
Tyndall/Tabor/ Springfield	Lewis & Clark Composite Squadron (SD-064A)	1986 - 2001	
Watertown	Glacial Lakes Composite Squadron (SD-065)	? - 2004	Reported Active in 1991
Vermillion	Vermillion Composite Squadron	Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1958
Winner	Unidentified Squadron	Dates not Known	Noted Active in 1958
Yankton	Yankton Composite Squadron	Dates Not Known	Noted Active in 1958
Yankton/Vermillion	Lewis & Clark Composite Squadron (SD-064) Lewis & Clark Flight (SD-064) Sunset (Squadron?)	2002- 2012 Dates Not Known ?-1950s	

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## **OTHER/SPECIAL UNITS**

The current “Headquarters Squadron”, CAP designator NCR-SD-000, is for individuals who are not active but maintain their CAP membership, and for individuals who are out-of-state but retain their membership in South Dakota Wing. SD-000 was designated as such in 1999 but can trace its lineage back to at least 1955 when it most likely had the designator SD-40000.

The “State Legislative Squadron”, CAP designator NCR-SD-999, is a unit for state legislators, their aides, and other elected state officials. SD-999 was formed in 2013.

From May 1969 to June 1970, South Dakota Wing had an official CAP Band. It consisted of the 97 members of the Flandreau High School Band (90 musicians, one Drum Majorette and a six member all-female Color Guard). The teenagers joined CAP as cadets while the band director and at least two adult members of the band booster club joined as senior members. The SDWG CAP Band performed at local events and, in May 1970, travelled to Maxwell AFB, Alabama to play for the CAP National Commander. The SDWG Band cut at least two records, recorded a Christmas concert for the U.S. Forces in Vietnam and appeared on what was then KSOO-TV in Sioux Falls. The SDWG Band was presented its charter as a CAP Band Squadron on 2 February 1970.

In 1992, the Philip Composite Squadron in Philip, SD formed the 53<sup>rd</sup> Mounted Ground Search and Rescue Team. The members performed search and rescue missions on horseback in the Badlands, Black Hills, and in the vicinity of Onida, Pierre, Aberdeen, Custer and Mitchell. The 53<sup>rd</sup> Mounted Ground SAR Team wore special uniforms and had specialized equipment for evacuating injured from the field by horseback or by horse litter. At its largest, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Mounted SAR Ground Team consisted of 10 horses and 21 members. The 53<sup>rd</sup> Mounted Ground SAR Team stood down about 2000. The Philip Composite Squadron was disbanded in 2002.

